

Grizzly Bear Conflict



Guiding Questions

- What are the statutes and regulations guiding policies and procedures for conflict response?
- How do we currently respond to grizzly bear conflicts? Are there different protocols in different parts of the state?
- What roles do state, federal, and tribal managers play?
- What are the benefits, costs, and challenges of the current approach?
- What issues are most important for the Council's consideration?

ESA

Endangered

in danger of extinction throughout all
or a significant portion of its range



“Taking” illegal

Threatened

likely to become endangered
within the foreseeable future



“Taking” may be exempted



4(d) Rule

“Take” means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.

Grizzly Bear 4(d) Rule

- Grizzly bears may be taken in self-defense or in defense of others.
- Removal of nuisance bears...
- Federal, State, or Tribal authorities may take grizzly bears for scientific or research purposes.

Grizzly Bear 4(d) Rule

- Removal of nuisance bears.
 - A grizzly bear constituting a demonstrable but non-immediate threat to human safety or committing significant depredations to lawfully present livestock, crops, or beehives may be taken, but only if:
 - It has not been reasonably possible to eliminate such threat or depredation by live-capturing and releasing unharmed in a remove area the grizzly bear involved; and
 - The taking is done in a humane manner by authorized Federal, State, or Tribal authorities, and in accordance with current interagency guidelines covering the taking of such nuisance bears.

Interagency Guidelines

- Management Situations – management direction based on grizzly populations and habitat conditions
 - Core habitat, unsuitable habitat
 - Developments, campgrounds
- Conditions – type of offense
 - Livestock depredation, unnatural foods
 - Aggressive behavior towards humans
 - Human injury or death
- Sex & Age Class

How do we currently respond to grizzly bear conflicts? Are there different protocols in different parts of the state?

- Protocols are the same

Agency Roles

- Conflict Call:
 - FWP, Tribes, Wildlife Services respond
 - Agencies authorized to harass, trap
- Conflict bear is trapped:
 - State or Tribe consult with FWS to determine appropriate response (relocation or removal)
 - Interagency Guidelines guide decision

Benefits & Challenges of Current Approach

- Benefits:

- Allows flexibility
- Decision is quick
- Decision relies on experience in field

- Challenges:

- Some want a known outcome
- Management decision will always be unsatisfying for some
- Bear Specialists are overworked, underpaid, and key to succes

What issues are most important for the Council's consideration?

- Every conflict situation is unique. Flexibility is key.
- Relationships & good coordination necessary.
- Need a common message.